



**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN 0648-XF737**

**Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog**

**Fisheries; Notice that Vendor Will Provide 2018 Cage Tags**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of vendor to provide fishing year 2018 cage tags.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS informs surfclam and ocean quahog individual transferable quota (ITQ) allocation holders that they will be required to purchase their fishing year 2018 (January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018) cage tags from the National Band and Tag Company. The intent of this notice is to comply with regulations for the Atlantic surfclam and ocean quahog fisheries and to promote efficient distribution of cage tags.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Anna Macan, Fishery Management Specialist, (978) 281-9165; fax (978) 281-9161.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Federal Atlantic surfclam and ocean quahog fishery regulations at 50 CFR 648.77(b) authorize the Regional Administrator of the Greater Atlantic Region, NMFS, to specify in the *Federal Register* a vendor from whom cage tags, required under the Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fishery Management Plan (FMP), shall be purchased. Notice is hereby given that National Band and Tag Company of Newport, Kentucky, is the authorized vendor of cage tags required for the fishing year 2018 Federal

surfclam and ocean quahog fisheries. Detailed instructions for purchasing these cage tags will be provided in a letter to ITQ allocation holders in these fisheries from NMFS within the next several weeks.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: October 11, 2017.

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Emily H. Menashes,

Acting Director,

Office of Sustainable Fisheries.

National Marine Fisheries Service.

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